

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19. (Canceled).

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): A composition comprising polymerized catechins and non-polymerized catechins extracted from tea, wherein content of the polymerized catechins is higher than that of the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 20, wherein the tea is oolong tea.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 20, wherein the amount of polymerized catechins is at least four times that of non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): A composition in a form of an aqueous liquid fraction, or a concentrated or dried form thereof, wherein the aqueous liquid fraction is obtainable by contacting an aqueous extract of [[oolong]] tea with an adsorbent, whereby content of the polymerized catechins is higher than that of the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): The composition of claim 23, wherein the aqueous liquid fraction is obtainable by contacting a aqueous extract of [[oolong]] tea with an adsorbent at a temperature of at least 50°C, whereby content of the polymerized catechins is higher than that of the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 23, wherein the amount of polymerized catechins is at least four times that of non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 20, wherein the composition is a lipase activity inhibitor.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The lipase activity inhibitor of claim 26 which is used to suppress the absorption of dietary lipids and subsequent rise of triglyceride in blood.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended): A method for producing a composition in which the ratio of the polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins is made higher than in the original aqueous liquid, which comprises steps of contacting an aqueous liquid containing polymerized catechins and non-polymerized catechins extracted from [[oolong]] tea with an adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin as the aqueous liquid is held at a temperature of at least 50°C, whereby the non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, which is performed by filling a column with the adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin, passing an aqueous extract of tea leaves through the column in an amount 3 times greater than the capacity of the column, recovering the effluent from the column, and optionally concentrating or drying the effluent.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the effluent is added to a beverage.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the beverage is oolong tea.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the amount of tea leaves passed is an amount of 5-10 times the capacity of the column.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 29, wherein a liquid extracted from [[oolong]] tea with slightly alkaline lukewarm water is passed through the column.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented): An aqueous, wet or dry composition that has been produced by the method of claim 28, wherein content of the polymerized catechins is higher than that of the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented): The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is a lipase activity inhibitor.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented): The lipase activity inhibitor of claim 35 which is used to suppress the absorption of dietary lipids and subsequent rise of triglyceride in blood.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented): A food or beverage additive containing the composition of claim 20.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented): A food or drink containing the composition of claim 20.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented): The food or drink of claim 38 which is either a health food or a health drink.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented): The drink of claim 38 which is a tea drink.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented): A drink which is a mixture of a tea extract and the additive of claim 37.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented): The drink of claim 41, wherein the drink is an oolong tea.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented): A drink containing the polymerized catechins at a concentration of 268 mg/L or more.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented): The drink of claim 43 containing the polymerized catechins at a concentration of 268 mg/L to 3600 mg/L.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented): The drink of claim 43, which contains non-polymerized catechins at a concentration of less than one fourth of content of the polymerized catechins.

Claim 46. (Currently Amended): A method for inhibiting lipase activity, comprising administering a compound which contains polymerized catechins and non-polymerized catechins extracted from [[oolong]] tea, wherein content of the polymerized catechins is higher than that of the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 47. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 46, wherein the amount of polymerized catechins relative to non-polymerized catechins is at least four times as much in the compound.

Claim 48. (New): The composition of any of claims 23, 24, and 25, wherein the tea is oolong tea.

Claim 49. (New): The method of either claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the tea is oolong tea.

Claim 50. (New): The method of either claim 46 or claim 47, wherein the tea is oolong tea.